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REPORT ON FARM AND HOME PLANNING IN THE EXTENSION
HOME MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Material assembled from the questionnaire sent to all State home management specialists in September 1949 by the committee: Madonna Fitzgerald, Missouri, Chairman; Pauline Bunting, Wyoming; Lorraine Ford, Mississippi; and Sidney Korando, Connecticut.

Number of Home Management Specialists replying. - 42

- I. Is Farm and Home Planning included as a phase of the State extension program?
Yes 31 No. 11
- II. Is it carried in selected or "pilot" counties only? Yes 14 No. 8
Any county requesting it? Yes 18 No 3
- III. Extension workers participating in phases of farm and home planning:
Supervisors 26 Foods and Nutrition 20
Farm Management Specialists 28 Clothing 17
Other Agricultural Specialists 26 Others 16
Home Management Specialists 28 (Child Development, Health, Housing, etc.)
- IV. Response of farm families now in the program:
Good 17 Indifferent 2
Fair 14 No Comment 10
- V. Outlook for expanding the farm and home planning program in this State in 1950:
Good 17 Indifferent 2
Fair 13 No Comment 10
- VI. Materials prepared by home management specialist for use in farm and home planning:
Special Visual Aids 7 Charts 13 Mimeographed material
Slides 10 Bulletins 13 23
Other 9
- VII. Comments on methods or materials needed:
- Every specialist commented on this question. Those most often mentioned were
1. A general need for more interest and cooperation on the part of all extension personnel.
 2. Planning techniques to use with groups of families.
 3. Research standards, particularly in Clothing and Home Furnishings, so that more adequate check sheets may be prepared.
 4. More time for Home Management Specialists to work out methods and materials.
 5. More materials for visual presentation.
 6. Sets of illustrative materials to be used by agents in conducting group meetings.
 7. Methods to expand the program so that more people may be reached.
 8. Methods to maintain and increase interest of families once they are in the program.

VIII. Desirability of channeling most of the Home Management program through an over-all Farm and Home Planning Program.

Opinions generally expressed were:

1. It would be an effective way to do Home Management, but as long as the Home Economics Extension program is set up on the organization (club) basis it would be impossible to carry on the complete Home Management program through over-all farm and home planning.
2. Over-all planning is a good way to interest families in home finances, and the Home Management program would be strengthened by that.
3. Farm families not otherwise working with Extension are frequently reached through this program. Also it provides a good source of information to use in all fields of Extension - through learning (first hand) the problems people are facing.
4. Such a plan would be good only if all Extension personnel could be sufficiently interested to make it work.
5. The chief difficulty comes in all workers seeing the over-all picture and county programs planned on this basis.

IX. Problems encountered in developing the Home Management phase of this program:

1. Time to really do the job.
2. Need a good definition of Farm and Home Planning. Is it individual family financial planning or is it group planning?
3. Conflicts with present method of conducting home demonstration programs.
4. Lack of understanding and coordinated effort on the part of all Extension workers.
5. Need of "promotion" director who will see that county foundations are laid.
6. Feeling of inadequacy on part of Home Agent and lack of cooperation between agents in the county.
7. Lack of trained and experienced county personnel, and resistance or indifference on the part of State staff members.
8. Farm and Home Planning should be considered an important part of the county program and not an extra job.
9. Finding effective ways to interest and challenge families to apply the management process in solving their problems.

X. Other Comments

1. The rapid turn-over of home agents is definitely a handicap, because farm and home planning is a long time process and demands maturity and judgement of the home agents, many of whom have had too little experience in decision making.
2. This program has merit and can be far-reaching, but there is need for a good farm and home account program to go hand-in-hand with planning.
3. Supervisors have a responsibility in really assisting county workers in developing a long-time over-all program.
4. Current planning conferences indicate greater interest in this type of program for 1950 (12 States report).
5. Specialists need training in order to know how best to approach the problem and to learn procedures for arousing interest and getting action on the part of the people.

The very good response to this questionnaire and the comments on each question, indicate wide-spread interest in joint planning.

It is being started in a limited way in most states, however, all Home Management Specialists replying feel a need for better methods of developing and carrying on the program. Subject matter does not seem to be as much of a problem.

While the "family approach" is receiving increased emphasis today, we all recognize the problems involved and the "hurdles" to be taken, before a program as far-reaching as this can be established. It is bound to move slowly.

An exchange of materials and ideas would be helpful, although, each State will work in its own way.

It is essential to have the complete cooperation of all specialists in this type of program. We recognize this as a "mist" in developing and carrying out the program, but only those phases which are the responsibility of Home Management specialists were considered in this questionnaire.

The committee wishes to express its appreciation to all the Home Management Specialists for their cooperation in answering the questionnaire so promptly.

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